



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800  
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956  
1-800-264-0904

**COUNCILS COMMITTEE**

Montgomery Bell State Park  
Thursday, November 2, 2006  
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Joetta Yarbro, Chair  
Beverly Cosley  
Michelle Crowley  
Denise Hobbs  
Chegameh Korvandi-Geledar  
Dana Lesley  
Christy Little  
Jerry Maness  
Diane Neighbors

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director  
Richard Kennedy, Field Director  
Marietta Backus  
Dana Cobb  
Rodger Jowers  
Steve Petty  
Robert Smith  
April Swoner  
Norma Tolliver  
Elaine Williams

Committee Members Absent

Barbara Holden  
Sue Pilson  
Sidney Bynum

I. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Chair Yarbro convened the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Chegameh (Chey) Korvandi-Geledar and Denise Hobbs introduced themselves as new commission members. April Swoner introduced herself as the new Mid-Cumberland Regional Coordinator.

II. Approval of July Minutes

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (YARBRO) AND SECONDED (COSLEY) THAT THE JULY 2006 COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

### III. Blueprint Update

O'Neal provided an update on the Blueprint. Emel Eff is compiling data and Pam Brown is verifying work done by students. The KIDS COUNT Conference in Baltimore in September provided valuable feedback for better framing the issue for maximum impact. We continue to work on the Blueprint with expectations of sending the book to the printer around the end of year.

### IV. Announcement of Mid-Cumberland Coordinator

Kennedy reported on the interview process for the selection of the Mid-Cumberland regional coordinator position and concluded by stating that April Swoner was hands down the best choice for the position. He stated that he feels with Swoner's experience and motivation, she will do an outstanding job.

### V. Southeast Regional Coordinator Search Update

Kennedy stated Marilyn Davis, Southeast Regional Coordinator retired in September. Her Council gave her a formidable farewell event which included the attendance of the Mayor of Chattanooga, Senator Ward Crutchfield and many other state and community representatives. The Department of Personnel register was opened for 30 days and is now closed. A soft register has been pulled and following rating of additional applicants, a final register will be pulled and letters mailed. Interviews should start in early January with the goal of having the position filled around the end of January.

### VI. Children's Advocacy Days

Kennedy stated Children's Advocacy Days will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at the War Memorial Auditorium. The Downtown Sheraton will not be the host hotel this year. The Millennium Maxwell House Hotel will serve as the host hotel. We will be working with them to provide transportation needs. The location of the legislative reception has not been determined. Using space other than the Sheraton should allow for us to use an outside caterer and should be less expensive. Since state money is not used to fund this event, sponsorship is needed. Kennedy asked for feedback regarding contacts or ideas about who might want to co-sponsor. All suggestions are welcomed. Kennedy said the theme, whether specific or generic, is still undecided.

### VII. Jim Pryor Award

Kennedy stated one of the awards given each year is the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Year Award. Commission Member Trudy Hughes is a prior recipient of this award. Kennedy asked everyone to think about nominations for deserving recipients of this award and for the Making Kids Count Awards. Chair Yarbrow encouraged everyone to take the time to nominate those that are deserving.

VIII. Program Monitoring Plan

Kennedy stated that as a result of the regional coordinators now being responsible for the monitoring of grant programs, they were feeling somewhat anxious and overwhelmed. At the last Commission meeting, the coordinators had gone through a very detailed day of Program Monitoring training and were concerned about incorporating these responsibilities into their already full schedule. In response to the added responsibility, Kennedy, Stafford and Commission Member Ford met with representatives of the Department of Finance to determine their exact requirements. A plan was agreed upon to divide the grants into High Risk (\$50,000.00 and above) and Low Risk (Below \$50,000.00). The High Risk grantees will be monitored one time every year and the Low Risk grantees will be monitored one time every 3 years. The state supplement grants were backed out because the majority of them are used as a single source for salaries. An additional line was added to the quarterly reports requesting verification or proof showing the money is used in this manner. Finance and Administration representatives agreed with the plan. Coordinators will monitor outside their own regions to reduce any potential conflict of interest.

IX. Review of Regional Coordinators' Activities

Information regarding the individual Councils and Coordinator activities was presented by Dana Cobb, Northwest; April Swoner, Mid-Cumberland; Rodger Jowers, Southwest; and Gwendolyn Wright, Memphis/Shelby County. Elaine Williams, South Central and Robert Smith, East Tennessee will present their reports at the full Commission Meeting. The Southeast council position is vacant, but a detailed report is included in the handouts.

X. Other Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

---

Richard Kennedy  
Director of Field Operations

---

Joetta Yarbrow  
Councils Committee Chair